

Message Text

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INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

UNCLAS MEXICO 12303

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, MX

SUBJECT: CONFISCATED AIRCRAFT IN MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 11915

1. CHIEF OF CONSULAR SERVICES AND CONSUL HUDSON CALLED ON LIC. SOCRATES HUERTA GRADOS, DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL AND CONSULTATIVE OFFICERS OF THE PROCURADURIA GENERAL, SEPTEMBER 2, TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL THE PROBLEM OF U.S. REGISTERED AIRCRAFT WHOSE RETURN HAS BEEN REQUESTED UNDER THE 1936 CONVENTION. EMBOFFS GAVE HUERTA A LIST OF PENDING CASES OF AIRCRAFT CLAIMED UNDER THE CONVENTION INCLUDING FIVE CLAIMS PENDING SINCE 1974.

2. HUERTA AT FIRST ASSERTED THAT THE REASON THE OLDER CLAIMS HAD BEEN PENDING SO LONG WAS BECAUSE THE AIRCRAFT COULD NOT BE LOCATED. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT THE LOCATION WHERE THE AIRCRAFT WAS BEING HELD HAD BEEN SPECIFIED IN ALMOST ALL CASES, EITHER IN THE ORIGINAL NOTE FORWARDING THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY THE CONVENTION OR IN FOLLOW-UP NOTES. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE LIST GIVEN CONTAINED INDICATION OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF EACH AIRCRAFT. HUERTA CONTINUED TO GIVE SUPERFICIAL EXPLANATIONS FOR LACK OF RESPONSE FROM THE GOM UNTIL IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE GOM DID NOT APPEAR TO TAKE SERIOUSLY ITS RESPONSABILITIES UNDER THE 1936 CONVENTION. HE TOOK
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OFFENSE AT THIS COMMENT AND IMMEDIATELY CALLED AN

ASSISTANT TO BRING OUT ALL OF THE PENDING FILES ON AIRCRAFT CLAIMED UNDER THE CONVENTION. HE THEN WENT OVER EACH FILE IN TURN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE CASE INsofar AS HIS OFFICE WAS INVOLVED.

3. ON 15 OUT OF 26 PENDING CASES HUERTA'S OFFICE HAD NO RECORD, WHICH INDICATES THE CLAIM HAD NOT BEEN FORWARDED FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN 5 CASES HUERTA NOTED THE DATES ON WHICH FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY HUERTA'S OFFICE. (NONE OF THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN RELAYED TO THE EMBASSY BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS DESPITE REPEATED QUERIES. IN SEVERAL OF THE CLAIMS CONSIDERED PENDING BY HUERTA'S OFFICE THE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN RETURNED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BUT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

4. HUERTA REITERATED WHAT HAS BECOME A STANDARD THEME OF GOM OFFICIALS IN DISCUSSING THE 1936 CONVENTION-THEIR BELIEF THAT IT IS OUTMODED. HE SAID THAT THE VIEWS OF ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN SOLICITED,-CUSTOMS, NATIONAL DEFENSE, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE- AND ALL ARE AGREED THAT THE CONVENTION SHOULD BE RENEGOTIATED TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO RECOVER AIRCRAFT USED IN ILLEGAL DRUG AND CONTRABAND TRAFFIC. THE RESPONSES OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE NOW WITH ROSENSWEIG DIAZ, DIRECTOR JURIDICO OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE AWAIT THEIR PROPOSALS BUT IN THE MEANTIME WE EXPECT THAT THE 1936 CONVENTION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. HUERTA AGREED, BUT WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM.
THOMPSON

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